

March 18, 2015

Legislative Human Services Committee Members,

I am Alexandra M. McGee, President of the Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf (CCOSD) writing on behalf of the organization.

CCOSD strongly encourages you to support HB 6765, Interpreter Qualifications regarding strengthening and standardizing the qualifications of interpreters serving deaf and hard of hearing persons.

It is imperative that the deaf and hard of hearing population of Connecticut be provided with interpreters who are qualified to do so. This can only be done by mandating that interpreters for the deaf have appropriate certification, which is best left to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)/National Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf (NRID). Allowing uncertified interpreters to facilitate communication, we are often left with inaccurate information and therefore denied reasonable access.

Please vote in favor of HB 6765, Interpreter Qualifications. CCOSD, consisting of more than 25 member organizations, strongly encourages you to upgrade our state laws regarding interpreter certifications. Deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing citizens should have the right to access information through qualified sign language interpreters certified by NAD/NRID.

Thank you,

Alexandra M. McGee
CCOSD President
www.CCOSD.org